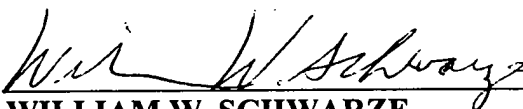


In a further telephone conversation on February 24, 2000, the Examiner confirmed the scheduling of the interview for March 17, 2000 at 10:30 a.m., which will be attended by the Examiner's supervisor, as well as the undersigned, one of the inventors, and the German patent attorney for Applicant. The Examiner agreed that no Office Action would be issued prior to the interview and that Applicants would have an opportunity to submit a Preliminary Amendment after the interview, so that a premature final rejection is not received. The Examiner further suggested in general a possible type of Amendment which might be considered to overcome the prior art, and this is currently being considered by Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

HANS GRUNDEI, ET AL.

February 29, 2000
(Date)

By: 
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